

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07

DRC-01 /103 W

----- 098948

R 301600Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS AO

SUBJECT: TROUBLE FLARES BETWEEN BLACKS AND TAXI DRIVERS

1. TROUBLE FLARED BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITE TAXI DRIVERS EVENINGS MAY 27 AND 28. MILITARY INTERVENED QUICKLY AND IN FORCE; MADE RELATIVELY FEW ARRESTS. NO ONE APPARENTLY HURT. FOLLOWING SEVERAL ENCOUNTERS MAY 27, HOWEVER, MOTORCADE OF TAXIS CAREENED OFF TO PALACE, THEN TO MILITARY HEADQUARTERS WHERE MFA OFFICERS FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN CALMING THEM DOWN. EPISODE LASTED ABOUT TWO HOURS FROM START TO FINISH. ONE INCIDENT REPORTED MAY 28, QUICKLY QUELLED BY MPS.

2. BLACKS AND TAXI DRIVERS ARE TRADITIONAL ENEMIES HERE. TAXI DRIVERS ARE FREQUENT TARGETS OF ASSAULT, ROBBERY. THEY IN TURN ARE TOUGH CUSTOMERS, HAVE REPUTATION OF BEING RACISTS. (WE UNDERSTAND ALL BUT 3 ARE WHITE.) IN 1972 THERE WERE FATALITIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL BLACK PEDESTRIANS AND TAXI DRIVERS SLAIN IN RETALIATION BY ANGRY BLACK MOBS. WORST FLARE UP WAS CAZENGA RIOT IN SEPTEMBER 1972 (LUANDA 0430).

3. TAXI DRIVERS APPEAR SPOILING FOR FIGHT. REACTION OF MILITARY POLICE MAY 27-28, HOWEVER, IS HOPEFUL SIGN IN OTHERWISE GLOOMY
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PICTURE. TO EMPHASIZE ITS DETERMINATION TO PREVENT ANY UNMANAGEABLE

ERRUPTION, ARMY CALLED IN LEADERS OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS
SYNDICATE NIGHT OF MAY 28 AND GAVE THEM STIFF WARNING TO BEHAVE.
(ACCORDING TO MILITARY SOURCE IT WAS POINTED OUT TOTAXI DRIVERS
THAT MFA THREW OUT A WHOLE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING GENERALS; AND
WOULD BE GLAD TO EVICT TAXI DRIVERS TOO.)

4. COMMENT: WE NEVERTHELESS ANTICIPATE FURTHER TROUBLE FROM TAXI
DRIVERS, UNLESS AND UNTIL THEY ARE DISARMED, WHICH SEEMS IMPRACTICAL
(ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY APPEAR INCLINED TO USE THEIR VEHICLES AS
ULTIMATE WEAPONS).
BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, MILITARY PERSONNEL, URBAN TRANSPORTATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA00391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740137-0771
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974058/aaaaagga.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLE FLARES BETWEEN BLACKS AND TAXI DRIVERS
TAGS: PINS, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005